Short Gestation Power Projects

*211. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to discourage their short gestation power project policy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) How the capital for mega power projects is proposed to be arranged ensuring generation of power at a reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARMANGALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Docs not arise.

(c) The capital for mega projects will be arranged by the prospective developer themselves. Selection of the developer to take up any projects, would be generally done by inviting competitive offers anil it is expected that the process of competition will ensure generation of power at a reasonable price.

Improvement of HcalttvMcdical Facilities in Jails

*212. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study conducted by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in respect of health and medical facilities available to inmates in Tihar and other jails in the country has revealed that a large number of undertrials and convicts died of tuberculosis detected at an advanced'stage of infection, rendering the conditions hazardous not only for the prisoners and inmates actually suffering but also for other inmates who suffer an unsuspecting exposure;

(b) if so, the steps proposed by the Commission to improve the health and medical facilities in the jails; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) undertake a study of custodial deaths in various jails in India, for the period 1995 to 31st January, 1998. The study, based on a sample of 195 cases, finally disposed off by the Commission reveals that the most number of deaths were caused due to lung diseases.

(b) and (c) NHRC, in order to improve the standard of health care in jails is evolving a proforma for thorough medical check up of the prisoners at the time of their admission. Further action in this regard would be taken by the States, as "prisons" is a State subject under Entry 4 List II State List under Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. However, the role of the Government of India has been to provide financial assistance under the Scheme of Modernisation of Prison Administration, to the State Governments, to supplement their efforts to improve prison infrastructure, living conditions of prisoners and to provide medical facilities in jails, etc. Moreover, the Tenth Finance Commission has also recommended financial assistance to the State Governments for providing medical facilities in jails.

Turnover of Handloom Corporations

*213. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARI BHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total turnover of the Orissa, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh Handloom Corporations has declined to 35.40% during the last four years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to discontinue the Janata Cloth Scheme;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to review the handloom Industry in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat?